

Brian Welcomes Science Bowl Competitors to D.C. (May 4th, 2009)

Washington, D.C.-

Today, Congressman Brian Baird met with some of the top scientific minds from Southwest Washington, and they're all seniors at Mountain View High School. The four students and their coach (math teacher Kari Hay) traveled to Washington D.C to compete in the National Science Bowl. The students represented Southwest Washington well, but were unable to advance out of the round robin round.

"These students have made Southwest Washington proud. They beat out more than 20 thousand others from all across the country to compete in Washington D.C. this weekend. It's an amazing accomplishment and one they'll be able to tell their families about for the rest of their lives," said Congressman Baird. "They are also proof that the scientific leaders of tomorrow will come from our high schools today. As a subcommittee chairman of the House Science Committee, I have made increasing funding for science education one of my top priorities. By making a bigger commitment to STEM education we can ensure that other students in the region, as well as all across the country will be able to follow in their footsteps."

Mountain View qualified for the national competition by winning one of 67 regional tournaments nationwide. This year, more than 20,000 students competed in regional Science Bowl events. Since the event's inception in 1991, more than 150,000 students and teachers have participated.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Science Bowl is the nation's largest academic competition of its kind and the only competition sponsored by a federal agency. The DOE created the National Science Bowl in 1991 to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in these fields. The DOE supports mathematics and science education to help provide a technically trained and diverse workforce for the nation.

Short biographies of each member of the Mountain View High School team (as submitted to the DOE) are below.

Coach: Kari Hay graduated from Carleton College with a B.A. and a math major; she became a math teacher after first getting her M.B.A. at University of Chicago and working in finance and then for several dot-coms. She would have come to D.C. with the Mountain View team last year, except she was back in Oregon giving birth at the time.

Seungjun Kim is a senior. This is his second year competing in the National Science Bowl, after placing in the top 16 last year. He has been a USABO (USA Biology Olympiad) semi-finalist, USAMO (USA Math Olympiad) qualifier, and USNCO (US National Chemistry Olympiad) semi-finalist. Besides actively leading math and science clubs at Mountain View, he also enjoys music and volunteer work. He leads the school drumline as its section leader and has performed with the All-Northwest Orchestra. He serves on the American Red Cross National Youth Council, and will continue volunteering in college. He was recently recognized as a Coca-Cola Scholar and as a Siemens Award for AP winner, and plans to attend Harvard or Yale.

Seungsoo Kim is a senior and the captain of the Mountain View Science Bowl team. He won a gold medal at the International Biology Olympiad in 2008 and an honorable mention in the Asian-Pacific Math Olympiad in 2007. He is a MOSP (Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program) participant, USAPhO quarterfinalist, USNCO semi-finalist, and three-time USAMO qualifier. He is also passionate in music; he plays percussion in Mountain View's wind ensemble, has performed in All-State and All-Northwest honor bands, and has won honors at the state Solo/Ensemble Contest. He plans to major in biology and is deciding whether to attend Harvard, MIT, or Yale.

Timothy Lau is a senior. Every day he wakes up at 4:00 a.m. to study for Science Bowl. After approximately one hour of doing this, he usually eats an avocado, and then goes to school. He is a straight-A student and currently taking six AP classes. He is involved in many extracurricular activities such as Science Olympiad and Red Cross. When Timothy gets home from school, he sometimes vacuums his sister's room with his Miele Galaxy S4780 Orion Canister Vacuum Cleaner, then goes to Neopets.com and plays Meerca Chase for a while. And that is a day in the life of Timothy Lau.

Niko McManus is a senior. He has been, and is, involved in numerous activities including Knowledge Bowl, Science Bowl, Key Club, math club, and the track team. His favorite subjects include biology, mathematics, physics, history, economics, and astronomy. He is considering multiple colleges including Stanford, University of California Berkeley, University of California Santa Cruz, and University of Washington. He would like to major in computer science, biology, or economics.

###